



The 12th Edition

Volume 5, Issue 6

Headquarters, Twelfth Air Force Supplement to the *Desert Airman*

Friday, June 13, 2003

News Briefs

Monthly ceremony

Twelfth Air Force's monthly awards and promotion ceremony is **June 30 at 9 a.m. in the Catalina Room at the Officers' Club.**

Honorees need to be in place by 8:30 a.m. For more information, call 12 AF/PA at 8-6053.

CC Call

Twelfth Air Force Commander's call is 1:30 p.m. July 3 at the Base Theater. For more information, call the CAG at 8-0540.

Holiday weekend

July 4th, which marks our nation's 227th birthday, will be a three-day weekend this year.

Everyone is encouraged to enjoy the extended weekend in a fun, but safe way using some of the following tips:

1. If you drink, designate a driver before going out or call the AADD program at 850-2233.

2. When planning an outing, apply personal risk management to ensure you return home safely.

3. Avoid extended driving periods, take frequent breaks to stretch and don't try to "make that extra mile" before stopping for the night.

4. Above all – keep an eye out and avoid putting yourself into unsafe situations, use the wingman policy – it pays!

Farewell

Twelfth Air Force would like to bid farewell to Brig. Gen. and Mrs. Gray.

Best wishes on the new assignment as the wing commander for Andrews Air Force Base, Md.

Clearly Communicating

612 TOG delivers radios to Honduras, Nicaragua, Panama

The 612th Theater Operations Group, Latin Americas Branch Cooperation Team-1 (CT-1) recently visited Honduras to execute a Subject Matter Expert Exchange visit with the Honduran air force and to deliver radios to the air forces of Honduras and Nicaragua, and the National Air Service of Panama.

The team delivered two of the three 119-URC radios to Joint Task Force Bravo, Soto Cano Air Base, where they are awaiting military airlift transportation to their final destinations in Nicaragua and Panama. The third radio was transferred directly to the Honduran air force.

Lt. Col. Neyib Rivera, the current liaison officer for the System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces (SICOFAA) and S/O II MM (E-9) Alex Sierra Franco, a radio operator, received the URC-119 radio on behalf of the Honduran air force. The transfer was officiated by Tyrone Barbery, Secretary of the XII Information and Telecommunications committee meeting, and attended by Lt. Col. Steve Aldefer, 79th Rescue Squadron commander, Lt. Col. Dana Willis, CT-1 Team Chief, and Maj. Ted Danek, the Air Force Section Chief in Tegucigalpa.

The delivery of these radios was truly



Courtesy Photo

Lt. Col. Neyib Rivera, System of Cooperation Among the American Air Forces Liaison Officer for the Honduran air force, breaks the seal for the radios while Lt. Col. Dana Willis (right) and S/O II MM Alex Sierra Franco, Radio Operator (left), watch.

a team effort by the 612th Air Communications Squadron, the 612 TOG, and the 79 RQS, all from Davis-Monthan AFB, Ariz.

Personnel from each office

worked hand-in-hand to locate, pack, palletize, and fly the radios into Honduras.

In addition, 612 ACOMS conducted
See Radios, Page 2

USSOUTHCOM top enlisted visits NAF

Priorities include safety, training, service standards, professionalism

By Maj. Melissa Miller
12th AF Public Affairs

Recently Command Sergeant Major Michael Etheridge, United States Southern Command's Command Sergeant Major, and top enlisted person, visited Davis-Monthan AFB and Twelfth Air Force. While at 12 AF he spoke to the Top 3 and asked them to put an emphasis on safety, encouraged them to focus on their training and technical skills, and challenged them

to enforce the standards of their service and professional development.

"Every time we lose a soldier, sailor, airman, coast guardsman or Marine, it's a loss to the whole, to all of us," said Etheridge. This is especially important now that the 101 critical days of summer have begun. Supervisors must actively encourage safety among their troops.

He also encouraged the senior NCOs to focus on their training and technical skills.

"In this day of stop-loss, reduction in force and the operations tempo getting higher and higher we need everybody to

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bring everything they have to the plate," said Etheridge.

"All non-commissioned officers are first and foremost trainers of individual, team, and crew tasks," he added. "So I expect them to be competent in their technical skills and competent trainers of soldiers/airmen." He also placed a high value on annual promotion exams and recognition for technical expertise and leadership.

Lastly, on a joint scope Etheridge told the Top 3 that he counts on all SOUTHCOM NCOs to "enforce the standards of their service. Army NCOs should live up to Army standards and enforce Army rules," Etheridge said. And by that criterion Air



Force NCOs should follow Air Force rules and standards and the Navy NCOs should follow Navy standards and rules. His advice to SOUTHCOM junior enlisted is to "do your job and serve honorably." Etheridge said, "I expect them to apply themselves and learn the technical aspect of their trade and to serve honorably for the duration of their commitment."

In regards to the work being done at USSOUTHCOM and in the area of responsibility the command sergeant major is very impressed. "We do a lot of important business for the nation in the AOR," said Etheridge. "Each member needs to know the value of their service and the value of what they bring to the fight."

RADIOS Continued from Page 1

technical training in March for radio operators and technicians of the air forces who received the radios.

This event is of significant importance to the U.S. Air Force, as well as, to the SICOFAA member air forces because these radios will enable them to have a common communications link, including data and voice transmissions, in their day-to-day SICOFAA activities,

and for coordinating flight plans and overflight clearances.

Most importantly, these radios will allow them to communicate within the three SICOFAA networks: North Circuit Station, South Circuit Station and the Control Network Station, in emergency situations such as search and rescue missions and natural disasters.

The USAF took over the initiative to provide eight radios free of cost to

the SICOFAA member air forces that requested them, after the Chiefs of the American Air Forces in 1998 decided to modernize their UHF radios used for SICOFAA activities. Once again these actions demonstrate the true spirit of cooperation inherent in the SICOFAA organization.

(Article courtesy of 612th Theater Operations Group)



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Editorial content for *The 12th Edition* is edited, prepared and provided by the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office.

Contributions for *The 12th Edition* can be made directly to the Twelfth Air Force Public Affairs Office, Building 12, Suite 228, or through e-mail to 12af.pa@dm.af.mil. The editor can be reached directly at 228-6053.

All photographs are U.S. Air Force photos unless otherwise indicated.

The 12th Edition is a supplement to the *Desert Airman*, published by Aerotech News and Review, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written agreement with the 355th Wing. All Advertising is handled by Aerotech News and Review, 456 East Ave. K-4, Suite 8, Lancaster, Calif. 93535, phone (520) 623-9321. They can also be reached by E-mail at aeroaz@earthlink.net.

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AWARDS

Meritorious Service Medal

Capt. Arturo Alaiza
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Air Force Commendation Medal

SA Jacob Kunkle
Capt. Hector Lopez (2nd OLC)

Good Conduct Medal

SrA Stacey Barker

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Skin Cancer: The Most Common Cancer

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Prevention is the best fight against skin cancer. The following are important measures to take in the prevention of skin cancer:

- Wear spf 30 or higher when exposed to the sun
- Wear clothes that cover much of your skin while in the sun
- Locate shaded areas when in sunlight for extended periods of time
- Sun tanning of any type should be avoided
- Protect the head, face, neck and eyes at all costs
- Schedule outdoor activities when UV levels are minimal, such as in the early morning or late afternoon.

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